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Salisbury's Advisory Committee for Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization to Hold First Meeting

Council-Appointed Committee to Evaluate Policies and Make Recommendations to City Council

Salisbury, NC_November 24, 2010 – The City of Salisbury's Advisory Committee on Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization will meet on Monday, November 29 at 7 pm. The committee's inaugural session will be conducted at the Park Avenue Community Center, 630 Park Avenue. The committee will serve to evaluate current housing policies and provide suggestions to City Council for improving local housing conditions. Committee members were appointed and approved through unanimous council vote during the Tuesday, November 16 city council meeting.

Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council offers, "The Advisory Committee on Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization has been created to research and assess community housing policies and to offer findings in the form of recommendations to our Salisbury City Council. The committee will strive to provide positive solutions for areas of concern throughout our city and endeavor to emphasize education, financial literacy, and foreclosure prevention. The committee is to serve as a common means for improving our local neighborhoods through the collaboration of existing community partners. In addition, the committee will afford our citizens with opportunity to share their views through the implementation of public forums." Kluttz adds that numerous community partners and agencies are currently working to address local housing conditions and include, but are not limited to the following: The Community Appearance Commission, The Neighborhood Leaders Alliance, The Human Relations Council, The Salisbury Community Development Corporation, The Historic Salisbury Foundation, The Salisbury Housing Authority, and The United Way. Mayor Kluttz notes, "We applaud the diligent and on-going efforts of these and many other organizations that exist throughout our community. Their dedicated efforts, in addition to those by the many conscientious property owners, tenants, and members of the real estate community, support continuous efforts to provide our citizens with the housing they deserve. The newly-created Advisory Committee on Better Housing and Stabilization offers vast opportunity for community collaboration. By partnering to create a shared approach to local housing improvements, current efforts will be augmented and our entire community will benefit."

Director of Community Planning Services Joe Morris will serve as staff liaison to the advisory committee and shares, "The Advisory Committee on Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization will offer support for our City of Salisbury Code Services Division, while providing a citizen-based-perspective for existing housing conditions. The

committee will study existing code and make recommendations for minimum housing standards, landlord registration, incentives, and potential penalties. In addition, by striving to protect both landlord and tenant, the committee can serve as a funnel to address issues regarding empty housing and promotion of better living conditions.” Morris notes that applications submitted by those interested in serving on The Advisory Committee for Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization offer a diverse representation of the local area. “We are sincerely grateful to the individuals who have volunteered to serve on this committee and look forward to their valuable contributions on behalf of our community.” Those appointed include: Garth Birdsey, Burt Brinson, Ollie Mae Carroll, Nathan Chambers, Greta Connor, Kyna Foster, Eddie Hampton, Mimi Howard, Lou Manning, Calvin Turner, Dan Waggoner, and Norde Wilson. Morris adds that the November 29 meeting will offer introductions by new members, the election of officers, and a synopsis of existing housing efforts currently underway. The session will provide an overview of the committee’s role, an assessment of local needs, and discussion of opportunities for community- partner-collaboration. The public is welcome to attend.

For more information or questions regarding Salisbury’s Advisory Committee for Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization, please contact Joe Morris at 704-638-5324 or by email at jmorr@salisburync.gov. The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov . To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury’s Facebook users group at www.salisburync.gov/facebook or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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